

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA), Hawaii Department of Human Services, will hold public hearings on proposed amendments to the Admissions and Continued Occupancy Policy for the Federally Assisted Public Housing Program (ACOP) to memorialize the HPHA's obligation and commitment to provide meaningful access to services by Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons. Specifically, the proposed changes would, among other things, describe the HPHA's obligations with regard to language assistance services, including the provision of oral interpretation at no cost to the LEP person when necessary for the LEP person to access important benefits and services, and written translations of vital documents for eligible LEP groups.

Background: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d) prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and the courts have ruled that the exclusion of LEP persons from our programs because of their inability to communicate in English could be considered a form of national origin discrimination. The HPHA is committed to full compliance with all non-discrimination, fair housing, and equal opportunity laws.

Public Review: The proposed changes are available for public viewing at the HPHA and all site management offices Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and on the HPHA website at: www.hpha.hawaii.gov/.

Public Hearings: Public hearings will be held at the following locations on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at 6:00 p.m., except at the Kealahou Intermediate School Cafeteria in Kailua-Kona, which will be on Thursday, November 10, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.

Hawaii Public Housing Authority
1002 North School Street, Building "E"
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Waimaha-Sunflower Project Office Lanai
85-186 McArthur Street
Waianae, Hawaii 96792

Koolau Village Community Hall
45-1027 Kamau Place
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

Kahekili Terrace Community Hall
2015 Holowai Place
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Lanakila Homes Conference Room
600 Wailoa Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Kealahou Intermediate School Cafeteria
74-5062 Onipaa Street
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740

Hale Ohana O'Kapaa Community Center
4726 Malu Road
Kapaa, Hawaii 96746

All interested persons are invited to provide comments relating to the proposed changes to the ACOP regarding a language access policy, either orally or in writing. Oral comments should be presented at the public hearing. Written comments may be presented to the presiding officer at the public hearing, or mailed to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority, Attention: Compliance Office, at P.O. Box 17907, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817. Written comments may also be faxed to (808) 832-4679, or sent by electronic mail to hpha@hawaii.gov. Persons who cannot attend the hearing and prefer not to provide written comments may phone (808) 832-4681 and leave their comments as a voicemail message. Written and oral comments not presented at the public hearing should be received at the HPHA office in Honolulu by 4:30 p.m. November 9, 2011. All oral and written testimony presented at the public hearing or submitted to the HPHA office will be considered.

Any person requiring assistance to participate, such as large print, taped materials, interpreters for sign language or limited English proficiency, etc., should make a request to HPHA at least five working days prior to the public hearing to allow time to make arrangements. Requests can be made in writing to HPHA at the address above or by calling (808) 832-4690.

HPHA does not discriminate against any person because of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, ancestry, age, marital status, or HIV infection.

Denise Wise
Executive Director
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Department of Human Services

October 10, 2011

